



Workforce Development Board  
County of Middlesex

**Youth Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 25, 2019 9:30am**

**Present:** Allison Bejar, Melissa Bernstein, Jian Bland, Thomas Crane, Catherine Henderson, Bertalan Kormann, Ushindi Lewis, Dawn Lystad, Tracey Montani, Jose Montes, Martin Schamberger, Hector Smith,

**Staff:** Sandra Ciccone, Janice Alexander, Ricky DeJesus, Latoya Perry

**I. Welcome and Introductions of Committee Members**

Ushindi Lewis, Vice Chairperson for the Youth Advisory Committee, began the meeting with the introduction of all present members and guests.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Tracey Montani motioned to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2019 YAC meeting as distributed previously by email and Jose Montes seconded. The vote was called and the motion passed to approve the minutes as written.

**III. Update of MCOWD Entry Level Internship Training & Employment (E.L.I.T.E)**

➤ **Statistics for the Program Year 2018**

- As of May 31, 2019 there were 109 new participants enrolled in the youth program.

- Affinity Federal Credit Union oversees the Financial Literacy curriculum for the Youth program.
- The YAC members were asked for recommendations for any employers that would be willing to offer worksites.
- 31 participants in the Youth program obtained their HSE (High School Equivalency Diploma).
- HSE graduation will be held on July 31, 2019 at Middlesex County College in West Hall.
- ELITE program held their first job fair.
- The youth department started a new program called Information Sessions. The sessions meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am. Qualified participants will attend a one-week workshop which will be held at the end of each month.
- The youth department is in the process of creating a survey monkey.
- The youth staff attended the following job fairs and handed out information about the WIOA Youth Program and services:
  - Parent of Offender Presentation at Family Court in New Brunswick, NJ
  - Edison Housing Authority Job Fair
  - Robert Holmes Gardens
  - Julius Engel Gardens

- Perth Amboy High School Guidance Department
  - Career Fair at Highland Park High School
  - JP Stevens High School Guidance Department
  - South Plainfield High School Guidance Department
  - Assemblyman Joe Danielson Annual Job Fair
  - Juvenile Justice Commission Staff
  - Career Options Day at Hackensack Meridian Health in Edison, NJ
  - Support Suicide Prevention
  - Reentry Job Fair
  - Career Construction Industry Day
  - Passport to Success
  - Youth Job Fair
- Ricky DeJesus and Nicole Montero reported two success stories of participants in the Youth program:
- A participant who completed the Culinary Arts program was hired at Bubba's.
  - Another participant who completed the Microsoft Certified System Administrator program was hired at SHI International Corp. making \$12.00 an hour.

#### IV. **Guest Speakers**

- **Dr. Thomas Crane, Vice Principal, NBPS Adult Learning Center**
- New Brunswick Adult Learning Center is located at 268 Baldwin Street, New Brunswick, NJ.
  - 196 participants enrolled at the New Brunswick Adult Learning Center obtained their HSE (High School Equivalency Diploma). Graduation will be held on June 26, 2019 at New Brunswick High School Auditorium.
  - New Brunswick Adult Learning Center offers adult and youth basic skills preparation classes in English and Spanish.
  - Offers High School Equivalency Exam preparation classes in English and Spanish.
  - Offers ESL (English as a Second Language) for parents of New Brunswick students.
  - Offers Civics Education Program.
  - Offers Citizenship classes.
  - New Brunswick Adult Learning Center offers IET (Integrated Education and Training) Program.
  - New Brunswick Adult Learning Center offers C.A.R.E.S. (Creating Alternative Routes to Educational Success) Program.
  - New Brunswick and Perth Amboy Adult Learning Center offer the TASC High School Equivalency Exam.
- **Jian Bland, Director of Youth Services, New Brunswick Tomorrow**
- New Brunswick Tomorrow is located at 390 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ.
  - Offers School Based Youth Services programs which provide individual and group counseling, class presentations, youth development, and employment preparation.

- New Brunswick Tomorrow offers Parent Linking Program which provides Individual counseling, Case Management, Parenting Education Courses, Parent and child interaction groups, and Life Skill training.
- New Brunswick Tomorrow started a new program called Summer Soccer Academy.
- Offers summer employment opportunities to students who live in New Brunswick as Camp Counselors.

**VII. Committee Member Announcements/Updates**

- 30 participants in the Youth Corps program obtained their HSE (High School Equivalency Diploma).
- Middlesex County College started a new program called RESET. The program provides job training, education, and supportive services for individuals who have been affected by the opioid epidemic.
- Youth, adults and students who are seeking employment should apply at [www.Hackensackmeridianhealth.org](http://www.Hackensackmeridianhealth.org)
- Job Corps offers an online career planning system called MyPACE. MyPACE helps participants to establish a plan to help them achieve their career goals. Register at [www.mypace.org](http://www.mypace.org).

**The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council is Tuesday September 24, 2019.**